

JPRS 74614

21 November 1979

Worldwide Report

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROLIFERATION

No. 18



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		1. REPORT NO. JPRS 74614	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
4. Title : Subtitle WORLDWIDE REPORT: NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROLIFERATION, No. 18			5. Report Date 21 November 1979	
7. Author(s)			6.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201			8. Performing Organization Report No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above			10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
			11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No. (C) (G)	
			13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
15. Supplementary Notes			14.	
16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words) This serial report contains worldwide press and radio coverage of nuclear research programs; technical indicators of nuclear capabilities; production capability; construction and purchase of nuclear facilities; status of uranium and thorium supplies; level of technology in high explosives and advanced munitions; government and nongovernment attitudes on nuclear-related topics; international agreements for nuclear cooperation; transfer of technology; personalities, organizations, equipment and facilities.				
17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors WORLDWIDE Nuclear Proliferation Nuclear Development Uranium Thorium Technology				
b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms				
c. COSATI Field/Group 18				
18. Availability Statement Unlimited Availability Sold by NTIS Springfield, Virginia 22161			19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED	21. No. of Pages 46
			20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	22. Price

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR TREATY WITH U.S. MAY BE CANCELED

PY180243 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Oct 79 p 19 PY

[Excerpt] Portaleza--In the next few months it is likely that Brazil will renounce [~~devera~~ denunciar] the nuclear agreement it signed with the United States in 1972, whereby the United States was to build the Angra I plant, guarantee the supply of nuclear fuel for the plant during its 30 years of useful life and reprocess irradiated fuel in the United States.

On releasing this information yesterday a source of the nuclear sector added that the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS] had already received instructions from the government to look into processing fuel for recharging Angra I within Brazil with German aid and enriched uranium to be supplied by URENCO (URAN Enrichment Corporation, a European consortium in which Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands participate), which is bound to NUCLEBRAS by a contract for the enrichment of uranium for the Brazilian nuclear program beginning in 1982.

The Brazilian Government will renounce its treaty with the United States as a result of the new law on nuclear nonproliferation (nonproliferation act) of 1978, which entirely reformulated the U.S. policy on the export of nuclear equipment, services and technology. According to this new law, those countries interested in receiving nuclear supplies--even those which signed agreements before the implementation of this law--should abide by stiff safeguards.

According to the source, the only consequence Brazil will suffer for renouncing the treaty will be the loss of the annual fuel recharge for Angra I during the 30 years, agreed upon in the treaty. He said, however, that NUCLEBRAS, in cooperation with German and Brazilian enterprises and institutions, will be able to recharge fuel for the first plant, which should go into operation in 1982.

CSO: 5100

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

CRASHED CHINA-BOUND SWISSAIR JET CARRYING PLUTONIUM

AU181150 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 15 Oct 79 p 6 AU

[Commentary by Vladimir Divis: "Why Are They Silent?"]

[Text] A few days ago, world news agencies reported the crash of a Swissair DC-8 airliner en route from Zurich to Beijing. While landing in Athens one of the engines failed. The airliner, with almost 160 passengers and crew on board, overshot the runway and burst into flames.

By noting the number of victims claimed by the aviation disaster, Western agencies concluded their reporting. Two days later, however, after a painstaking search through the debris of the airliner, startling new facts emerged. During the fire several lead containers containing radioactive isotopes originally addressed to Beijing and stored in the baggage compartment, had melted. This meant that--with greatest probability--the survivors of the crash, as well as several dozen members of the rescue teams, were exposed to radioactive rays. It has subsequently been ascertained that one of the passengers of the crashed airliner, who was also on his way to Beijing, had some still much more dangerous plutonium in his baggage.

Although--at the moment--the purpose and the sender are shrouded in mystery, we are, without doubt, witnessing a great international affair. But the "great" West European bourgeois press is keeping singularly silent about the case. One wonders why. After all, this was the grossest violation of the basic safety rules of aviation. Could it be, perhaps, because one of the channels through which the material for nuclear research flows from Western Europe and the United States to Beijing, was accidentally discovered?

CSO: 5100

MITI FREEZES BID TO IMPORT REACTOR FROM CANADA

Two-Year Freeze

OW131159 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 13 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 13 KYODO--The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has set a two-year freeze on moves to step up the import of Canadian CANDU heavy-water reactors, government sources said Saturday. These sources said if the MITI should continue working to accelerate the import of CANDU reactors in opposition to Japan's Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), it would aggravate their relations further. Still more, it could have adverse effects on the people's feeling toward nuclear power plants, they said.

The AEC decided on 10 August not to introduce CANDU (Canadian Deuterium Uranium) reactors. The MITI raised strong objections to the decision. Masumi Esaki, MITI minister, expressed his deep regret over the AEC's decision. Further, the ministry issued an open letter Thursday to the AEC, stressing the need for introduction of CANDU reactors.

The AEC made public Friday a detailed statement of why it ruled out the introduction of CANDU reactors in Japan, in response to the MITI's open letter.

AEC Statement

OW130414 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 13 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 13 KYODO--The Atomic Energy Commission made public Friday a detailed statement of why it ruled out the introduction of CANDU atomic power reactors in Japan. The AEC statement justifying its 10 August decision was a reply to a public letter of protest issued by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) 11 September. MITI has been seeking since sometime between 1974 and 1976 to introduce the Canadian-developed nuclear technology to this country. Its dispute with the commission is over fundamentals and national priorities.

The CANDU (Canadian Deuterium Uranium) reactor uses heavy water and burns unenriched uranium, whereas conventional reactors are cooled by ordinary "light water" and require enriched uranium.

The key point of the commission's statement concerns its stand on how Japan should ensure its "energy security." It said the top-priority national policy consideration

should be to "propel the nation's own efforts to develop a fast breeder reactor in the long run, and in the medium run, concentrate on developing an advanced thermal converter reactor (ATR) while improving its technology to build and operate its own conventional light water-cooled reactor."

Part of the dispute between the AEC and MITI is said to be a bureaucratic feud over jurisdiction between MITI and the Science and Technology Agency, whose cabinet-rank director general is also chairman of the AEC. The agency has long promoted national development of an ATR and has been operating a pilot model since March last year. CANDU and the ATR are thus rival systems of a sort.

The AEC statement rejected MITI's argument favoring diversity of nuclear reactor types as "simplistic." It argued that the nation's money and manpower for atomic energy development are limited and should be concentrated on development of its own technology rather than scattered by introducing a unique foreign variant.

"It always takes much time, labor and money to establish a new type of reactor for wide use," the statement said. In addition, the commission said, the heavy-water CANDU is expected to give rise to many problems if used in Japan, including the question of earthquake resistance and other accident liabilities. Also, the CANDU's production of plutonium is double that of conventional light-water reactors, which will cause more trouble in disposal of used fuel, it said.

MITI's open letter made an issue of the nation's "energy security." Directly and indirectly, Canada supplies nearly 60 percent of Japan's uranium requirements, and it is rich in other energy resources besides. Canadian officials have indicated that the survival of their country's 31,000-employee nuclear industry hinges on Japan's decision concerning the CANDU.

The AEC statement said Japan's energy strategy concerning reactor types is a "fundamental aspect of the nation's nuclear energy development and utilization policy that should be decided from a long-range, thoughtful planning viewpoint." This should not be easily swayed by current economic and diplomatic considerations, the commission also said. Japan's final decision on whether or not to buy the CANDU is up to the Prime Minister. However, a special law says he must "respect" the decisions of the AEC in matters concerning atomic energy.

Commenting on the AEC statement, a spokesman for MITI's Natural Resources and Energy Agency said the ministry and the agency will closely study the commission's new statement before reacting to it. "The basic difference in the way of thinking seems unchanged," he said. Observers believe the dispute has entered a long period of truce.

CSO: 5100

BRIEFS

FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION--[Reporter Mueller-Witte interview with Bundestag Vice President Annemarie Renger, place not given--recorded] [Excerpt] [Question] There have been discussions in the past on the German-Brazilian nuclear reactor deal which totals about DM10 billion. You had discussions on this matter with the competent and responsible people in Brazil. You visited the construction site there. How is everything? [Answer] The president as well as the foreign minister assured us that they fully adhere to the technical agreement with the Federal Republic, but as regards the capacity of the nuclear reactors that will be built, some modifications are possible. But this is a problem of the responsible parties, namely the KWU, the German nuclear powerplant company, and NUCLEBRAS, the state-owned nuclear reactor company of Brazil. [Question] Does it mean that the treaties will be adhered to but that the amount could be reduced? [Answer] I had that impression. [DW081245 Cologne DEUTSCHE WELLE in German to Europe 1205 GMT 7 Nov 79 DW]

URANIUM DEVELOPMENT--The Korea Electric Co. (KECO) has reportedly signed provisional contracts with the COGEMA business group of France for the joint development of uranium in Gabon, Africa, for import for KECO's nuclear power plants, it was learned yesterday from the Ministry of Energy and Resources. The development was originally intended to be shared 50-50, but the Gabonese government has belatedly expressed intentions to take part in the capital investment. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Oct 79 p 1]

CSO: 5100

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

ASIAN COUNTRIES CONFER ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE RESEARCH

Meeting in Tokyo

OW150421 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 15 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 15 Oct (KYODO)--Japan and nine other Asian countries opened five days of discussion here Monday on the possibility of establishing an Asian regional center for research and training on isotopes and radiation. Japan is hosting the meeting at the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Attending the meeting are delegates from Japan, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Burma is represented as observer. All these countries are members of the IAEA regional cooperative agreement for research, development and training related to nuclear science and technology. The regional cooperative agreement came to existence in 1972 for the purpose of assisting Asian countries use isotopes and radiation. Japan became a member of the agreement in August last year.

Isotope Treatment of Food

OW161255 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 16 Oct 79 OW

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 16 Oct (KYODO)--Delegates of Japan and nine other Asian countries agreed here Tuesday to launch joint research on isotope treatment of food as their regional project to promote peaceful utilization of atomic energy. The agreement came at a meeting of the regional cooperative agreement (RCA), a subgroup established in 1972 under the International Atomic Energy Agency. The isotope treatment of food will include the quality improvement of grains and water buffalo meat. Japan plans to extend yen 50 million for the project over the next three years. An allocation of yen 15 million will be sought for fiscal 1980 beginning next April.

CSO: 5100

FRENCH POLYNESIA

MURUROA ATOLL CONTAMINATED BY RADIATION

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 29 Oct 79 p 7

[Text] Auckland, 27 Oct--Part of France's south Pacific nuclear testing range of Mururoa Atoll was contaminated by radiation for two months after an explosion in an underground laboratory on July 6 which claimed the lives of two men, a newspaper said today.

Allegations by French newspapers that the blast happened after an experiment with plutonium were denied by the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and also by a mission of scientific experts that visited the atoll last month.

It was officially admitted that the explosion happened during a decontamination operation when acetone gas was ignited by an electric drill.

Seven men were injured in a further accident July 25 when a small tidal wave surged across part of the atoll three hours after a nuclear test.
NAB/AFP

CSO: 5100

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA ASSURES JAPAN URANIUM SUPPLY--The deputy prime minister, Mr Anthony, has moved to reassure the Japanese that any uranium contract they enter into with Australia will be honored. Mr Anthony told a group of businessmen in Osaka that no Australian government had ever abrogated a valid commercial contract between supplier and consumer. The deputy prime minister, on a 3-day visit to western Japan, also invited greater Japanese investment in Australian energy projects. Mr Anthony said that Australia and Japan were entering a second economic honeymoon in which Australia would inevitably figure more and more in Japan's future. He believed exploration in Australia would expand reserves of both uranium and natural gas while, he added, Australia had abundant supplies of coal. [Text] [OW091427 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1130 GMT 9 Oct 79 OW]

CSO: 5100

'TIMES OF INDIA' ON SUBRAMANIAM REMARKS ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY

BK021351 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 79 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Sense About Security"]

[Text] Mr. C. Subramaniam's address to the National Defence College is one of the most important statements on national security to have been made by any defence minister during the last 3 decades. Inevitably, attention will be focused in days to come on his pronouncement that this country's decision to make or not to make the nuclear bomb would be influenced greatly, though not exclusively by whether or not Pakistan goes nuclear. But other parts of this thought-provoking speech are no less significant. Indeed the main merit of his exposition is that he has placed not only the vexed nuclear issue and the security problems of the next decade in a proper perspective but has also tried to clear the cobwebs of confused, if conventional, thinking on problems of defence, strategy and foreign policy. He has underscored, for instance, that the concept of national defence must be much wider than the mere protection of the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty from perceptible military threats. What needs to be shielded equally is the whole spectrum of India's political, social, economic and technological progress from "pressures arising out of the play of international forces" which are plain for anyone to see whether in the "arc of crisis" to the west of us or in the chronically troubled region of South-East Asia. Happily, he has also debunked the prevalent notion that nonalignment presupposes equidistance from the two superpowers. Non-involvement in big power rivalry cannot mean that India should treat alike a nation which buttresses its security and national interests and another which threatens them.

No one in charge of defending the country's freedom and frontiers can possibly ignore Pakistan's nuclear ambitions and clandestine efforts to promote them, especially after General Ziaulhaq's latest statement on the subject. Even so, Mr. Subramaniam has not advocated a nuclear weapons programme for this country. All he has said is that this country will have to review its nuclear policy, if on top of the existing disturbing factors--such as the growing Chinese nuclear arsenal, the unbridled proliferation of nuclear weapons in countries which are reading the nuclear have-nots lectures on

nonproliferation and full-scope safeguards, the reported nuclear test by South Africa, the undoubted possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and so on--Pakistan also goes nuclear. He does not claim to know what the outcome of such a reconsideration will be. But he is absolutely correct in asserting that no one has a right to foreclose the nuclear option "on behalf of all future generations and governments of India". All this, however, is only the starting point of a long overdue national debate on the nuclear issue, not its culmination. Meanwhile, there should be no let-up in the acquisition of nuclear technology and skills, whatever the stratagem of those apparently determined to impose their technological hegemony in the name of nuclear non-proliferation.

CSO: 5100

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HUNGARY'S SZEKER REPORTS ON CMEA NUCLEAR ENGINEERING TALKS

LD111512 Budapest MTI in English 1038 GMT 11 Oct 79 LD

[Text] Budapest, October 10 (MTI)--The first session of the inter-governmental commission coordinating the CMEA countries' cooperation in atomic energy machine engineering has concluded in Moscow.

The deliberations were attended also by Gyula Szeker, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, who said the following to the Moscow correspondent of MTI: The commission was following a resolution adopted by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance to this effect. Considering the importance of nuclear energy machine engineering and the significance of atomic power, the commission reviewed the state of the production of machines and equipment for nuclear power stations and it began coordination work on whose basis in the coming years the member countries will develop their partnership in constructing atomic power plants as well as in the production of the necessary machines and installations. The session discussed the tasks of the commission and stipulated the guidelines for the future work.

Gyula Szeker returned to Budapest on Wednesday.

CSO: 5100

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'CTK' REPORTS PLANS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION

LD101220 Prague CTK in English 0950 GMT 10 Oct 79 LD

[Text] Prague--By 1990, nuclear energy is to meet the whole increase in energy consumption in Czechoslovakia, and replace the output of the coal-firing power plants which will be phased out.

Even though it is assumed that the energy input of the Czechoslovak economy will be reduced, the need for energy resources will continue to rise. At present, coal meets 80 percent of Czechoslovakia's energy needs, oil and natural gas 37 per cent, hydro-electric power 3 per cent. Coal is domestic, oil and natural gas is mostly imported from the Soviet Union, certain quantities of electricity are also supplied by other CMEA countries.

About (two) thirds of all investments go into the fuels and energy complex in Czechoslovakia, and the state plan of scientific and technical progress lays great emphasis on fuels and energy conservancy, application of modern regulating technologies, better insulation, etc. Also explored are the possibilities of using the solar and geothermal energy in agriculture and household.

However, the main attention is focused on nuclear energy. Good conditions for building a nuclear energy complex are being created by the cooperation of the CMEA countries. Czechoslovakia participates in it in those spheres in which it has the necessary prerequisites--material and technical. It mines and processes uranium ores, and manufactures reactors and other equipment for nuclear power plants. Their construction in Czechoslovakia is based on bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union. The plants at Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, and at Dukovany, South Moravia, are to have an output of 3,500 megawatts by 1985. The first unit at Jaslovske Bohunice will generate 1,500,000 kilowatt hours of electricity this year.

Preparations are in progress for the construction of nuclear power plants in West Slovakia, South Bohemia and North Moravia.

The share of nuclear energy in the total volume of primary energy resources is to be 3.9 per cent in 1985, 7 per cent in 1990, and 20 per cent by the year 2000.

Nuclear power plants will also supply heat to towns some 30-50 kms distant.

CSO: 5100

ARGENTINA

PERONIST GROUP DECRIES RECENT NUCLEAR DEALS

PY161252 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2318 GMT '5 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Oct (NA)--A faction of the so-called "opposition group" of the Peronist Party today expressed its concern over the possibility that a nuclear "dump" may be established in Argentina, and warned about the risks involved in recent accords reached with the Swiss firm Sulzer Brothers to build a heavy water plant and with the German KWU [Kraftwerk Union] to build Atucha II.

The communique, signed by 18 members of this group, including Jorge Camus, Raul Bercovich Rodriguez and Juan Carlos Cornejo Linares, states that the Swiss firm chosen to build the heavy water plant "appears to be the one that built the plant in Baroda (India), which was blown apart by an internal explosion, and in Mazumbarde (France) which could not be put into operation."

The communique indicated that these plants "had a maximum output capacity of 60 tons per year. Switzerland itself does not operate a single plant with an output of more than 23 tons per year; however, when the risks will be run by us Argentines, Sulzer dares to install a 250-ton plant."

The paper went on to emphasize that something similar is involved with the KWU which will build Atucha II, which will use "natural uranium."

"It so happens that KWU abandoned this system approximately 8 years ago and has specialized in developing other systems which use enriched uranium. This places us before a dangerous technological gap evidenced by the nuclear reactor which the KWU will supply us with. It is a prototype which has never been built or tested," the communique stated.

It went on to stress that "the KWU has signed a secret accord with Brazil--as revealed by Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL on 22 September 1979--aimed at the establishment of a German nuclear monopoly in South America. This monopoly would be controlled from Brazil."

The communique concluded by stating that "ever since 1952, Argentina has been the acknowledged South American leader in nuclear research and it must carefully evaluate the information disclosed in this communique, to discourage every effort aimed at subordinating the country to Brazilian interests in this sensitive matter."

CSO: 5100

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

URANIUM PLANT INAUGURATED—Mendoza 20 Sep—Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) today presided over the inauguration ceremony of the new uranium concentration plant in Sierra Pintada. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1557 GMT 20 Sep 79 PY]

CSO: 5100

BRAZIL

OFFICIALS RULE OUT NUCLEAR TESTS IN COUNTRY

**PY131554 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT
13 Oct 79 PY**

[Text] In a lecture at a seminar on energy held in Portaleira, Paulo Nogueira Batista, president of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation, has stated that Brazilian territory will never be used as a field for nuclear tests by anyone. He said that insinuations to this effect have been made by sectors which believe that the FRO in order to carry out in Brazil what it cannot carry out in its territory. He added that international pressure against the Brazilian-FRO agreement is motivated by economic, technical, and mainly political reasons.

He made it clear that certain countries have been conducting this campaign out of fear that Brazil might use atomic energy for nonpeaceful purposes in the future.

CSO: 5100

BRAZIL

IPEN ABLE TO DEVELOP URANIUM REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

FY181121 Rio de Janeiro JOURNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Oct 79 p 19 PY

[Text] "We are in the position to develop our own uranium reprocessing technology in the IPEN [Nuclear and Energy Research Institute]," Ernani Amorim, superintendent of the institute reported during the session of debate in the Brazilian energy model seminar yesterday.

He said that the IPEN is already carrying out experiments in the treatment of irradiated nuclear fuel and that it has already produced some cold and other hot pellets, adding that in 5 years the IPEN will be in the position to operate a reprocessing pilot plant with technology developed by the institute. He also said that the institute is capable of assisting in the installation and operation of nuclear facilities which NUCLENRAS is building in association with the FRG and other countries.

The director of research and development for NUCLENRAS, Colonel Valadao, confirmed that the institute in Sao Paulo is in the position to operate a uranium reprocessing pilot plant within 5 years, but added that he has doubts that the IPEN will be able to make the switch from the pilot plant scale to the industrial scale. "The engineering problems for the construction of an industrial plant are much more complex than can be imagined, and this is why we decided to import such installations," he said.

Amorim protested the NUCLENRAS position not to use domestic technology for some phases of the nuclear fuel cycle, opting for importing everything. He added that the Brazilian research institutes could cooperate more actively in the Brazilian nuclear program and cited IPEN as an example. This institute has already developed know-how on a pilot plant scale that can be useful for the nuclear program.

He explained that since January of this year the IPEN has been operating a pilot plant for the production of uranium hexafluoride (uranium in gaseous form used in the enrichment process), adding that with a little bit of patience NUCLENRAS could have the hexafluoride conversion plant, which it is purchasing from the Fialinay Ugine Kuhlman of France, built here with Brazilian technology.

CSO: 5100

BRIEFS

URANIUM DEPOSITS REPORTED--Uranium deposits have been reported in Liberia. But the American company, Coastal State Gas, prospecting for the government, has not yet confirmed the find. The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, Mr Benedict Tolbert told the Chamber that a confirmation from the company was being awaited by government. Mr Tolbert, recently back from a European tour, also told legislators that a joint Franco-Liberian survey was to be set up shortly to pinpoint other mineral resources. The survey, he said, would be backed by the French government, and the exploitation carried out jointly. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 15 Oct 79]

CSO: 5100

NIGER

BRIEFS

NEW URANIUM COMPANY--A new uranium company has been set up, the Societe Miniere de Tassa et de N'Taghalgue. It is half owned by the state enterprise, Office National des Ressources Minieres du Niger, and the rest by Cogema, the French government. The aim of the company is to develop the uranium deposits, currently estimated at 20,000 tonnes, in the Arlit region. A production capacity of 1,500 tonnes is expected by 1983. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 15 Oct 79 p 1912]

CSO: 5100

PAPERS COMMENT ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSION STORY

'THE CITIZEN' Comment

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 27 Oct 79 p 6

[Editorial: "New Atomic Scare"]

[Text]

HEY, did you feel that atomic explosion?

Somewhere "in an area of the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic, including portions of the Antarctic continent and the southern part of Africa".

Which is where the American State Department says a low-yield nuclear explosion may have taken place on September 21.

We can't recall anything untoward happening that day.

If the earth trembled, we wouldn't have paid more than passing attention, as we are quite accustomed to earth tremors on the Witwatersrand, what with falls of hanging in the mines and similar occurrences providing us with a little shake, rattle 'n roll while we eat or sleep.

The American State Department, however, seems to have been all shook up that day.

Because it was then that, voosam! the low-yield blast went off.

Or may have gone off.

Since even the State Department is a little uncertain.

There were only "indications," suggesting a nuclear explosion.

"No corroborating evidence has been received to date."

And "we are continuing to assess whether such an event took place".

Which is about as good as admitting that the State Department may be in a sweat about nothing.

The area in which the State Department says the explosion may have occurred is so vast that, as our Foreign Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, pointed out, the Americans may as well have pointed a finger at Australia or New Zealand.

More specific

An American television correspondent was a little more specific.

He claimed the US Government had received "strong evidence that the South African Government had exploded a nuclear bomb within the past month".

US satellites, he said, had detected a low-yield explosion in an area clearly pointing to South Africa.

If such "strong evidence" was available, we wouldn't have had the State Department putting out its vague statement.

The story, in fact, is so flimsy that we consider it to be another of those typical atomic scares into which we have been dragged periodically by the US, the Soviet Union and France.

You may recall the boob-hub in August, 1977, when first the Russians, then the French, claimed that South Africa had built atomic test installations in the Kalahari Desert which had been spotted by United States and Russian spy satellites.

South Africa denied these claims emphatically.

Nevertheless, White House and State Department officials maintained that reports of a planned nuclear test by South Africa were substantially accurate.

Perhaps not

At the same time American officials admitted that there was a possibility that the buildings sighted by the spy satellites may not have been a nuclear test centre after all.

What is certain is that neither the US, nor Russia, nor any other Power, ever produced evidence to prove that the Kalahari test centre existed.

Like other canards about South Africa, this one blew itself out like the desert winds.

Then, in April, 1979, in the highly publicised spy-plane incident involving the US, South Africa discovered that among the most sensitive installations which had been photographed by the US was the top-secret Valindaba uranium plant.

There was also evidence that the spy plane had been conducting aerial surveillance of the Kalahari.

Since no claims were made at the time by the US that it had detected anything untoward happening, atomic-wise, we can assume that the spy-plane had not found such evidence.

You can also be sure that US and Soviet satellites have continued to look out for signs that South Africa is preparing or conducting atomic tests, or that it has any installations capable of producing or testing atomic bombs.

If the satellites had picked up any evidence, the US, we can be sure, would have created a public stink of atomic cloud mushroom-size.

So why the present attempt to create a scare?

One guess is that Mr FW Botha's new-look policy is gaining so much favourable publicity for South Africa abroad that the US is trying to restore South Africa's ugly image.

And what better way to do that than by suggesting that South Africa is up to some atomic tricks?

The very thought is enough to cause anti-South African apoplexy in capitals round the world.

More probably, the Americans are so jittery about the possibility that South Africa might one day become an atomic power that they are prepared to use any pretext to drag South Africa into the atomic hot seat.

Hoping that by doing so they can get South Africa to lay off any plans to make nuclear weapons — not that South Africa intends to manufacture any.

You can understand America's concern — as well as the concern of the other atomic powers.

Six in the club

There are six nations already in the nuclear club — the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, China and India.

They naturally don't want any other countries in their exclusive group. Especially not a country like South Africa, which is the strongest State in sub-Saharan Africa and which would be an almost impossible nut to crack if it had the atomic bomb.

The Big Powers' concern was expressed by the British Foreign Office, at the time of the Kalahari incident:

"If it were evident that the South Africans are completing work on the production of nuclear weapons and are preparing for a test, it would be an extremely grave state of affairs, which the British Government would strongly condemn."

"Like many other governments, including the Soviet Government, it is our policy to guard against any non-nuclear State acquiring a nuclear explosive capacity."

The then French Foreign Minister, Mr De Guiringaud, said: "We have warned South Africa that we consider such an explosion would endanger all the efforts towards peace that are under way in Southern Africa, and could have grave consequences on the relations of our two countries."

France is also extra-sensitive because of a French group's involvement in the Koeberg nuclear power station at the Cape.

And the United States, which at one time helped South Africa on peaceful nuclear research, is also touchy because it might be accused of having assisted South Africa to become an atomic power.

All this explains their jitteriness.

Different league

However, we know that having the Bomb puts a country in a different league from those which do not possess it.

Israel, for example, is rumoured to have the Bomb.

If it has, it is the ultimate deterrent against Israel being overrun — or being sold out to the Arabs by the United States.

If South Africa had the Bomb, it would also have the ultimate deterrent against any attempt to wipe it out.

However, since South Africa is not making the Bomb, there is no need for the US to get all shook up about it.

Except if the US fears that, pushed too far, South Africa might be forced one day to revise its attitude.

Referring to the double standards applied against South Africa, Mr John Vorster, then Prime Minister, said after the Kalahari incident:

"The time may arrive when South Africa, as small as she is, will have to say, so far, no farther. Do your damndest."

Or, we might add: "So far, no farther, if you don't want us to get into the atomic act."

'SUNDAY TIMES' Editorial

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 28 Oct 79 p 20

[Editorial: Nuclear Mirage in the Southern Skies"]

[Text]

THE American Government has inflicted grave damage on South Africa's international relationships by suggesting that this country might have carried out a nuclear test explosion somewhere between Australia and Argentina.

The episode has drawn condemnation of South Africa from all corners of the globe, sown suspicion among close neighbours and distant allies, embarrassed valued trading partners like Japan and Britain, and given enemies at the United Nations fresh ammunition for their assaults on South Africa.

Only the naive and the ignorant will believe that this could have happened by accident. According to the Pentagon, an American satellite picked up a one-second flash of light, possibly of natural origin, in the huge expanse of ocean to the south of Africa. Such information is usually classified; but in this instance it "leaked" and the State

Department issued a statement calculated to cast maximum suspicion on South Africa.

This could not have occurred by chance. The people who govern America are not hysterical school-girls who take fright every time the Pentagon sees a bright light (or if they are, America has no right to be a nuclear power). They preside over the world's most sophisticated machine for the orchestration and manipulation of propaganda on an international scale — a machine which includes three daily, cross-checked Press briefings at the White House, the Pentagon, and the State Department.

And if you wonder why the American news media pounce on South Africa for explanations before they have demanded from their own government the evidence of a nuclear blast, the probable answer lies in what they were told "off the record" at these briefings.

In any event, this latest episode falls into a pattern that began with South Africa's announcement that it had discovered a means of enriching uranium, a discovery that might pose a new threat to America's crumbling, but still immensely lucrative, monopoly over enrichment services in the Free World. Behind American hostility to South African nuclear research can be discerned not merely fear of nuclear attack — South Africa knows full well that the Americans, the Soviets and many others would unite to prevent a pariah state from acquiring nuclear weapons — but concern for enrichment contracts worth many millions of dollars and running well into the next century.

The first response to the South African technological breakthrough was to flood this country with spies; that network, according to a CIA defector, was quickly but quietly rolled up by the Bureau for State Security.

Ever since then the United States has been putting increasing pressure on South Africa to sign the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), which would subject South Africa's new technology to international — that is, American — inspection; South Africa has announced its willingness to sign the treaty provided its nuclear secrets can be secured.

Instead of negotiating on that point, the Americans have manufactured a series of phoney crises designed to persuade the world that South Africa is on its way to becoming a nuclear power.

To give credibility to this accusation, the United States has reneged on a contract to supply enriched uranium for research purposes, pretending it might be used for weapons; it has refused to enrich South African uranium for West Germany, which has turned to the Soviet Union to do so (thus, presumably, exacerbating American pique); it has "discovered", with the help of the Russians, a test site in the Kalahari where nobody else can find anything but windmills; and now it has seen a terrible flash of light somewhere north of Antarctica.

Undoubtedly, there is worse to come and, against a huge power like the United States, there is little or nothing South Africa can do except to recognise the hostility and live defensively.

That is the sad truth. That it should sprout less from concern for human rights than from anxiety over commercial competition says more about America than most Americans would like to admit.

SAFETY TO HAVE TOP PRIORITY IN KOEBERG NUCLEAR PLANT

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 26 Oct 79 p 8

[Article by Keith Abendroth]

[Text]

RESEARCHERS are taking enormous pains to ensure that safety has top priority when the country's first nuclear power station at Koeberg, about 50 km north of Cape Town, goes into operation.

Two Atomic Energy Board scientists yesterday described the extensive research already done.

Addressing the international air pollution conference in Pretoria, Dr A S M de Joux and Dr B L Goodwin said some of the measurements being taken might appear excessive from a purely scientific point of view.

The Koeberg station is going up on the coast at Dreyenfontein and the first fuel is due on site at the end of 1981. The first reactor is scheduled to become operational at the end of 1982.

The two scientists said that as a result of operations, small but inevitable quantities of radioactivity would be released into the environment, with airborne releases as a main source

plus liquid effluent discharged into the sea.

It was therefore essential to determine whether the public and the environment were being adequately protected.

They outlined extensive research and surveys to establish conditions and levels, and said that their work was a good example of the ongoing effort to know more about the impact of the atomic age on man and his environment.

They outlined extensive research and surveys to establish conditions and levels, and said that their work was a good example of the ongoing effort to know more about the impact of the

atomic age on man and his environment.

The present survey was the one and only opportunity of obtaining unambiguous data on pre-operational environmental conditions.

Considering that the Atomic Energy Board's responsibility also included training Roman personnel to take over environmental monitoring during operation, it was considered "Preferable to sin by excess rather than by default," they said.

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

URANIUM PRODUCTION--Uranium production of which South Africa supplies about one-sixth of the Free World's production, is increasing and is expected to reach a level considerably above the capacity of the original plant. Mr Denis Etheredge, chairman of the Nuclear Fuels Corporation, told a function celebrating the production of the 100-millionth kilogram of uranium oxide since the start of processing at Nufcor, the country's average production had been 3,700 tons a year. The first kilogram of uranium oxide was delivered by West Rand Cons in 1952 and by coincidence the 100 millionth kilogram also came from the same mine. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 11 Oct 79 p 23]

CSO: 5100

SCIENTISTS WORKING ON THERMONUCLEAR POWER

LD060214 Moscow TASS in English 2205 GMT 5 Oct 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, October 5, TASS--Soviet scientists working on the problem of controlled thermonuclear synthesis have physically started the first module of a thermonuclear installation named "Angara-5". It represents only one out of 48 units of a future thermonuclear giant at which Soviet scientists intend to demonstrate in a few years' time a steady output of energy as a result of "burning" of what is now the cheapest fuel, nuclei of deuterium and tritium, which are contained in ordinary sea water.

Speaking at the meeting held on the occasion of the start-up of this unit, Anatoliy Aleksandrov, the president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, expressed the hope that this success of Soviet scientists and designers opens up realistic prospects for the idea on which Soviet scientists have been working for a quarter century now, to prove in a few years' time to be the most effective practical way to give mankind really inexhaustible sources of energy.

Why do physicists dream of developing as soon as possible a commercial thermonuclear reactor?

Replying to this question Valeriy Lagasov, deputy director of the Atomic Energy Institute, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said that, as a rule, the ideas of physicists have been, in the course of the twentieth century, at least 20-30 years ahead of the current concerns of terrestrial power engineering. The reason why we concern ourselves with the problems of controlled thermonuclear reaction is not because the world is allegedly threatened with an energy crisis. The very development of knowledge about the surrounding world and acceleration of scientific and technological progress has always led up to a change of "energy leader", so to say. At the very beginning of civilization it was wood that was used as fuel, then coal, oil and finally nuclear fuel. But atomic stations, based on the fission of uranium nuclei as well as nuclei of plutonium, its most economical modification, yield much to the new idea of thermonuclear stations which is the principle of fusion of light nuclei.

The basic principle of the future installation Angara-5, which was demonstrated today on one module, is a rather simple one. An electric impulse is directed to a target representing a small "pill", a mixture of tritium and deuterium nuclei, a beam of electrons of great power produces tremendous pressure in the "pill" causing the nuclei to fuse together and thus release thermal energy. In the future installation, which is to consist of 48 identical modules, the energy produced will be increased scores of times.

After careful physical experiments to be held with each module separately at the atomic energy institute, the construction of a demonstration thermonuclear installation, Angara-5, will be started in the institute's experimental site.

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT REPORTED—Soviet scientists have put forward the idea of building nuclear power stations—not individually as at present, but in 10 million-kilowatt complexes. In such a complex nuclear fuel would go through its entire cycle from enrichment to burning and waste disposal. This would make its use safer for human beings and the environment. The idea has been set forth in the Soviet journal *KOMMUNIST* by two scientists: Dr Dollezhal, a member of the Academy of Sciences, and Dr Koryakin. The development of the nuclear power industry along such lines would also make possible a considerable economy. The scientists propose that the first few complexes of this type be built in the north of the Soviet Union, where the population density is low and there is plenty of wasteland. [Text] [LD151844 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Oct 79 LD]

NUCLEAR FUSION METHODOLOGIES DISCUSSED—Moscow *SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA* in Russian on 6 October publishes on page 4 a 1,200-word report by special correspondent G. Lomanov under the heading "How They Kindle a Sun," on current research at the I. V. Kurchatov Nuclear Power Institute. Lomanov describes work taking place on the "Angara-5" nuclear fusion installation, where the first of 48 modules has been started up, and compares the "Angara" method for achieving controlled nuclear fusion with the "Tokamak" method. [Editorial Report LD]

THERMAL NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR PRODUCTION—Leningrad, 16 Oct (TASS)—Flow-line production of thermal neutron nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 1 million kw has been achieved at the Leningrad *Izhorskiy Zavod* association. Several sets of plants of that capacity are now being simultaneously prepared here for nuclear power stations being built in the Ukraine and in Kalinin Gradekaya Oblast of the RSFSR. Compared with reactors of the older generation, the new plants (by increasing the dimensions and weight by only one-third) have acquired more than twice the capacity. The production of equipment of the same type is being achieved by the *Automash* power machine-building works being built near Rostov. [Text] [LD162352 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1449 GMT 16 Oct 79 LD]

CSO: 5100

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

INTERIOR MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ATOMIC WASTE RECYCLING

Bonn DIE WELT in German 10 Oct 79 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Gerhart Baum (FDP) by Ulrich Lueke: "Baum: Corleben Is Not Settled"]

[Text] The federal government and the Laender want to examine whether atomic waste should be reprocessed towards the end of this century, or whether it is safer to store it once and for all, without reprocessing it. This is the outcome of the talks between the chancellor and the minister presidents. The decision, which was made possible through a change of opinion on the part of the Laender governed by the CDU/CSU, will also permit final storage and reprocessing to take place at different locations. Minister President Albrecht had voted in May against the Corleben waste disposal facility.

WELT: Minister President Albrecht believes that the resolution on waste disposal gives the green light for new atomic power plants. Is that correct?

Baum: The resolution represents the fundamental agreement on a common nuclear waste disposal policy after Albrecht's decision concerning Corleben on 16 May. There can only be a green light for new nuclear power plants when the resolution has been transformed into a general consensus.

WELT: So, what else must still happen?

Baum: Now that the remaining CDU/CSU-governed Laender have been swayed by the joint proposal of the federal government and Lower Saxony, so that Strauss has lost, all the Land governments must also take the remaining steps towards ensuring a secure provision for nuclear waste disposal, which therefore means as well that they must demonstrate a basic willingness to set up interim storage facilities or reprocessing facilities. Above all, now, and if possible this year, the standards for nuclear waste disposal, which are essentially preserved, must be adapted, with the same unanimity, to the new resolution as it stands.

WELT: The agreement on Friday surely doesn't mean the end of the nuclear power controversy, for example, within the SPD. How can the consensus be deepened?

Baum: I wish that the other two parties would also agree to the integrated atomic waste disposal plan and to the parallel extension. But we must also consult the public. For many of them nuclear energy has become the symbol of incomprehensible, misapplied planning and inhuman bureaucracy. Citizens must have the assurance that their safety will continue to take priority over economic considerations. Therefore, citizens must be given the opportunity to be heard during the deliberations on the criteria for locating reprocessing facilities.

WELT: Then is Gorleben, as a location for a reprocessing plant, outside the discussion?

Baum: Gorleben is in no way settled. Ernst Albrecht has announced his readiness to accept a national installation for final storage, as well as an interim storage facility. The issue of the construction of additional facilities to close the fuel cycle in Gorleben will have to be continuously subjected to renewed re-evaluation, in light of the understanding reached between the national government and the Laender, especially Lower Saxony, during the next few years. Haste is not indicated here. The activation of the final storage facility is projected for the second half of the 1990's.

WELT: Does that leave the courts enough time?

Baum: The previous plan, too, had projected the activation of the final storage facilities for the middle of the 1990's. The judicial soundness of the nuclear waste disposal policy has not changed. The atomic law remains unchanged. Only on the technical, practical plane, as a result of the experience we have since gained, do we have a timely and perhaps accommodating rectification of the nuclear waste disposal plan. Above all, this applies to the question of reprocessing. In this regard, the knowledge obtained in the Gorleben hearing about the related interim storage of burnt-out fuel rods provides the possibility of unhurriedly beginning the investigations for smaller reprocessing facilities. At the same time, in the context of the so-called parallel extension, we can review the question of whether final storage without reprocessing would offer the opportunity to be heard during the deliberations on the criteria for locations for reprocessing facilities.

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WELT: Albrecht is expecting suggestions from the federal authorities as to locations for reprocessing facilities. Will you fulfill those expectations?

Baum: No. The establishment of locations is the affair of the Land approving authorities and the industry. However, the federal government and the Laender will work out location criteria, similar to those for atomic power plants.

WELT: How seriously can we take the parallel extension, that is, the possible rejection of the reprocessing option, if already now considerations as to location are being initiated?

Baum: Considerations regarding location at present apply only to criteria. The parallel extension is intended seriously. That is why the Government-Laender task force which has been set up by the minister presidents must promptly assign research and investigative tasks for all kinds of nuclear waste disposal. I will immediately concern myself with mobilizing personnel and material resources in order to carry out this very difficult assignment.

9413

CSO: 5100

FINLAND

NUCLEAR ENERGY OPPONENT CHARGES ACCIDENT COVER-UP

Oslø ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 9 Oct 79 p 16

[Article by Ralf Friberg: "Accident in the Operation of Nuclear Power Station in Finland Is Being Covered Up"]

[Text] Helsinki: "Several operational disturbances and accidents within the Finnish nuclear power industry have been stamped secret," says Professor Matti Roos to ARBEIDERBLADET. Professor Roos is one of the leaders of the Finnish nuclear power opponents. Information about the latest accident did not leak out to the press until 2 weeks afterwards. And then the first reports came via Sweden. They have now been published in the Finnish press.

Fifteen tons of radioactive water leaked out when a valve in the system for waste treatment broke. The nuclear power station involved considered the problem to be so negligible that it was not reported to the public.

The nuclear power policy in Finland has many tendencies which are in conflict with each other. For instance, Finland's first nuclear power station, in southeastern Finland in the town Loviisa, has had a relatively fortunate start. The nuclear power station uses Soviet technology, but the Finns have improved a great deal of equipment. The cooling system, for instance, comes from the American Westinghouse. The power station of 420 megawatts is built partially by Soviet experts. In Loviisa the accidents have been very few, but even when it involves the small problems which have occurred in this "Westinghouse," the management of the power station has not been very communicative. The power station is owned by the national power company Inmatran Voima. One more power station has been completed, but a manufacturing defect has been discovered in the cooling tank, and the power station has not yet been taken into use.

Involved in Nuclear Power Stations in Libya?

Finland's image becomes somewhat more problematic if the country gets involved in building a planned nuclear power station in Libya. No decision has been made, but there are both Finnish and Russian interest in joint collaboration in Libya's political line, and Libya's behavior in the world with support for terrorists and plans for their own nuclear weapon does not make the nuclear power station popular. The intention was that Finland was to collaborate with instruments and construction work, but the case has not been decided.

In the latest trade negotiations between Finland and the Soviet Union, the Russian minister for foreign trade, Patolitshev, mentioned in passing joint projects in the nuclear power field in a third country. There is also Finnish interest in building nuclear power stations in Iraq and Turkey.

The Olkiluoto Power Station

The nuclear power stations operated by private industry are in a very difficult position as compared to those operated entirely by the state. Asea Atom has delivered Olkiluoto power station on the west coast. This power station, which is owned 50 percent by the state and 50 percent by private industry, was damaged by fire during the construction. Valves have been built with defects, and the generator was stopped for some time after a similar generator stopped in the Swedish Barseback power station. As a consequence of a defective coupling, a pipe broke in the waste system in August, and 5 tons of radioactive wastewater was released. Now this happened a second time in September. The Olkiluoto power station incurs a loss of 750,000 kroner per day while it is out of operation. The power station output is 660 megawatts. A parallel station will soon be ready.

One of the problems in Olkiluoto is that the company still does not know where the waste will finally be stored after 10 years. The Lovisa waste is now brought to the Soviet Union. The waste problem is still considered to be less problematic than the basic reactor safety in Olkiluoto.

Sensitive Foreign Policy Problems

"The anti-nuclear-power movement in Finland has close to 1,000 members," says Professor Roos, 47, who himself is professor in particle physics at Helsinki University. He has worked for 6 years at the European Nuclear Research Center CERN in Geneva. The movement has adherents in all political parties and their youth movements. The movement works intimately together with ecologists and nature-protection people. "The climate in Finland is not characterized by the same hard conflicts as in the Scandinavian countries or in Germany," says Roos. "This is because several nuclear researchers participate in the movement."

In Finland the movement is generally content with diligent lobbying activity instead of gate demonstrations. Because the nuclear power question crosses all party lines, the parties have not wanted to open a debate on nuclear power which possibly could split them. In addition, some parties consider the question to be sensitive with regards to foreign policy because Finland and the Soviet Union have collaborated in this area, which both works well and gives good results.

"The scandalous thing is that the information on the problem with the operation of nuclear power stations is so scarce," says Professor Roos. "But the movement is growing, and the mass media are to a greater and greater extent on our side," says he about the anti-nuclear-power movement where the number of the young activists is strikingly large while the number of support members is surprisingly small in view of public opinion.

In Finland it is also understood that the country needs an alternative to expensive oil and Polish coal. Water power and turf as fuel will not do when it comes to the most important export industry, the paper industry, which is a very large consumer of energy.

FRANCE

GISCARD DENIES DOWNGRADING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DEFENSE BUDGET

LD111619 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Oct 79 pp 1, 15 LD

[Report by Jacques Isnard: "Defense Policy"]

[Text] On Wednesday 3 October Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was present at the Saône 79 ground forces maneuvers, which did not involve the simulated use of air or ground based tactical nuclear weapons.

Answering journalists' questions, he stated that the defense budget does not "lack priority or funds for nuclear means," and described as "incorrect" the opinion expressed on this point in different ways by the Defense Committee and Finance Committee chairmen during the debate on military policy in the assembly on Tuesday 2 October.

The discussion at the Palais-Bourbon was the occasion for a lively exchange between Defense Minister Mr Yvon Bourges and Mr Arthur Paris, chairman of the Defense Committee and Union for French Democracy deputy for Var, who expressed the view that "nuclear weapons no longer have priority in the budget," contrary to government assurances.

Believing that it is not his role to engage in polemics with spokesmen for the majority, the president of the republic was unwilling to give any very specific information on this specific topic of the place of nuclear weapons in French strategy and confined himself to recalling that "our defense effort rests on a powerful national deterrent and at the same time on the availability of a range of security means" which are complementary and varied, of which the current reorganization of the ground forces and their enhanced fire power are one illustration.

The head of state merely insisted on the effort which has already been made in developing the new M-4 multiple warhead missile intended for nuclear submarines and added that in this instance the technical problems associated with perfecting this strategic vehicle have been overcome since, as is known, the first tests of the scattering of these multiple warheads took place recently with some success.

In fact, if investment expenditure and operational expenditure arising from the existence of the nuclear forces in their present state are taken into account, the budget devoted to deterrence has increased, in terms of payment credits, from 16.6 percent of the total defense budget in 1977 to 19.1 percent in the draft military budget for 1980. But as the chairmen point out, these estimates also cover operational expenditure for nuclear forces, which tend to increase as the forces develop; expenses for personnel, upkeep and infrastructure increase regularly.

Investment or equipment expenditure, on the other hand, display a tendency to stagnate as regards these nuclear forces: if they are expressed in terms of program authorizations, which are the real indicator of the government's will in preparing for the future. This investment, assessed in standard francs (on the basis of 1969), has gone in 10 years from Fr4,961 million in 1969 to Fr4,887 million in 1979.

To explain this stagnation, the defense minister points out that there is no longer any need for major investments previously necessitated by the industrial and technological development of the means of production and research devoted to nuclear weapons, and that, on the contrary, today the budget is mainly reserved for developing future weapons systems or the operational maintenance of the existing arsenal.

Mr Bourges adds in private that since he became defense minister in February 1975 he has been responsible for the preparation and organization of as many nuclear experiments in the Pacific as there were tests carried out from February 1960 under the presidencies of General de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou. The defense minister did not quote exact figures, but it is known that in Polynesia and formerly in the Sahara 51 French explosions took place between 1960 and 1973 (inclusive).

These results do not prevent experts at the Nuclear Power Commission (CEA) from displaying concern, in confidence, at the fact that they are being asked to bring into service the multiple warheads for the M-4 nuclear missiles with, in total, 10 times fewer tests than the United States made in their time, namely about 20 tests as against some 200.

Moreover it seems, according to parliamentary sources, that the increase in nuclear tests since 1974, if it was a real increase, is now tending to mark time and that for 1979 and 1980 the number of explosions has been and will be slightly reduced in relation to initial decisions. At the same time the CEA's task is likely to be complicated as a result of the approaching saturation of Mururoe atoll as regards boring the holes needed for underground tests and the fact that experts will before long have to begin offshore tests in the lagoon.

The capacity of France's nuclear forces, in megatons, has doubled in 4 years, increasing from a total of 22 megatons in 1977 (the equivalent of 1,100 Hiroshima bombs) to 43 megatons in 1980 (the equivalent of 2,150 Hiroshima bombs). If the government adheres to its plans as they now stand, this destructive capacity will have quadrupled by 1985 in relation to 1977, since by that time it will be 80 megatons (the equivalent of 4,000 Hiroshima bombs). From 1985 submarines equipped with M-4 missiles will begin to come into service--there will be five ships capable of using this equipment--and the goal which the French Government has currently adopted is that of deploying, in 10 years' time, more than 600 nuclear warheads carried by sea and placed, by one missile, on different ballistic trajectories after the fashion of the American MIRV missiles.

CSO: 3100

FRANCE

PCF'S LE GUEN INTERVIEWED ON NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

Paris L'HUMANITE in French 4 Oct 79 p 7

[Interview with Rene Le Guen, member of the PCF's Politburo, date not given]

[Text] Progress and problems in the energy sector, nuclear energy and security, technological control...Many questions have come up after detection of cracks in the tanks [cuves] of nuclear reactors at several power plants. L'HUMANITE questioned Rene Le Guen, member of the PCF's [French Communist Party] Politburo, about the problems posed.

[Question] Does the detection of cracks in the tanks of nuclear power plants at Tricastin and Gravelines call into question development of nuclear energy?

[Answer] The development of nuclear energy is not the result of a choice imposed by events. It represents the implementation, with respect for safety and security, of a scientific and technological advance permitting the assurance of the conditions of national independence by limitation of our energy dependence. However, this scientific advance calls for the intervention of the workers and development of struggles for determination of economic choices opening the way to the satisfaction of the people's social needs.

The final resolution of the 23d Congress clearly established the position of the Communist Party on the need "for assuring rapid development of diversified energy production utilizing national resources to the maximum," this involves controlled development of nuclear energy.

Technological incidents represented by the cracks can in no way call into question this orientation. They demonstrate how we must take the offensive in the demands of progress and, by the struggle of workers, impose resolution of all the technological problems so as to guarantee security, notably by stability of employment and development of the qualifications of the workers concerned, in order to combat mistakes and assure permanent progress from the beneficial effects of science.

There is nothing apocalyptic in the discovery of these cracks, there is only the imperative of measures to be taken.

We must be aware of the fact that at each stage of development, under the cover of security, certain individuals do not hesitate to call progress into question, which requires the permanent vigilance of the workers. What in fact is involved? Following examination of the tanks being constructed in the factory, cracks were discovered under the stainless steel coating which provides protection against corrosion. Similar examinations conducted on the reactors at Tricastin and Gravelines revealed the same defects without the taking of actions because of this to impose complete control over all the sensitive points. For the time being, these cracks are not dangerous, as they do not affect the watertightness of the tanks and do not call into question the strength. However, studies conducted by the appropriate services indicate that the cracks develop in time as a function of the thermal strains associated with the operation of the powerplant.

The question raised is one of knowing whether we have the means of becoming aware of the development cracks in time, controlling their development, having the means of repairing them if they develop.

[Question] What does the Communist Party propose to do to correct this situation?

[Answer] In view of the lack of precision in the answers given both by public officials and the EDF [French Electric Power Company], we propose that a general check be made of tanks and the Tricastin and Gravelines powerplants to assure that all the security measures have been followed.

Such a verification can be carried out in the coming 2 months and will permit a decision, if necessary, to make immediate repairs guaranteeing security and avoiding the problems which could be caused by shutting down these power plants in 5 or 6 years.

Moreover, these measures should have been demanded by the nuclear protection service to which the government refers for a decision.

These proposals were also presented by the sole energy confederation, the CGT [General Confederation of Labor].

The basic question cannot be reduced to: charging or not charging the power plant but rests in the demand that steps be taken to resolve the technological problems thus posed. For that reason the Communist Party is calling upon workers and the people to struggle, this struggle being inseparable from the development of nuclear energy. With verifications conducted and bringing guarantees of security, if they prove satisfactory, it will be possible to put these powerplants in service.

These proposals demonstrate the need for committing very sizable scientific resources to all stages of conception and construction.

The solution to the most immediate problems, as well as the great options of the future, require that the big national organizations, such as the AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] and the EDF, work with total independence of the criteria imposed by capitalist profits and make it necessary for the American subsidiary used for the powerplants being constructed to be Frenchified.

These solutions fall within the framework of the workers' struggle which, in each of the sectors, can promote the knowledge needed for development of nuclear energy.

[Question] In this context, how are we to regard the moratorium proposal of the PS [Socialist Party]?

[Answer] This proposal is in fact a calling into question of the utilization and development of nuclear energy. It can do nothing but fuel unreasoned fear of nuclear power and call into question the conditions of national independence and security in the operation of this energy resource.

The proposal places a check on all solutions required on the technological level; it tends to denature the workers' will to struggle.

Last April, incidents demonstrated defects in the functioning of valves at the Gravelines powerplant. The action of the CGT and the workers has imposed supplementary tests at the Tricastin powerplant. That led to a 3-month delay but also to the resolution of the problem.

The behavior of the Socialist Party and implementation of the moratorium would not have permitted the positive intervention of workers and such a resolution.

With the moratorium, we would not discover the cracks and even less the solutions to repair them.

The development of the activity of the Communist Party in nuclear powerplants, research centers and electronuclear construction companies, to bring to life the orientations of the 23d Congress is a decisive contribution to the organization of workers' action so that nuclear energy may take its place as a necessary element in the spectrum of national energy.

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FRANCE

BRIEFS

LOADING OF POWER STATIONS SUSPENDED—In a letter addressed to the COT [not further identified], the management of the French electricity board announces its intention to suspend the loading of the Tricastin and Gravelines nuclear power stations until the end of the current test being carried out with a view to finding out the real extent of cracks found in certain areas of the reactor. [Text] [LD042242 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 4 Oct 79 LD]

RADIOACTIVE LEAK AT POWER STATION—There is a stoppage at the nuclear Bugey-3 power station this evening. A leak of radioactive water has been discovered in its cooling system. The installations will be put into operation again in about 3 weeks. [Text] [LD102222 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 10 Oct 79 LD]

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PROS, CONS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS EXAMINED

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 29 Sep 79 p 2

[Article by Bulent Damar, Turkish Union of Chambers of Architects and Engineers Chamber of Electrical Engineers chairman]

[Text] The production of electrical power is the most important of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this article, we will examine a few significant aspects of the topic of electrical power produced by the nuclear power plants that are to be established in Turkey.

Turkey is a nation that is not self-sufficient from the standpoint of electrical power. Consumption demands were 23.6 billion kilowatt-hours in 1978. Of this, 21.7 billion kilowatt-hours were generated in Turkey; 621 million kilowatt-hours were imported from Bulgaria; and the remaining 1.3 billion kilowatt-hours were subjected to cutoffs and power reductions.

Of the electrical energy consumed in 1978 in Turkey, which is not self-sufficient when it comes to the production of electrical power, 75 percent was used in industry and the remaining, in homes, businesses, and government offices and for purposes such as lighting streets. Of the electricity consumed by industry, which takes the large proportion of 75 percent of total energy used in Turkey, in which almost half the citizens are without electricity, 87 percent goes for the production of consumer and intermediary goods and 13 percent is used for the production of investment goods. These figures clearly demonstrate that, if there is an electrical-power shortage in Turkey, it comes from trying to meet the needs of industries that produce consumer goods. Any crisis that arises is the result of the industrial structure and its emphasis.

As long as industry continues to possess this structure and inclination, it will be appropriate to say that the energy problem will not be solved no matter what source of electrical energy is used to supply consumer industries, and nuclear power plants in particular will be unable to provide a solution in trying to meet this demand.

In addition to this observation, there are several other objections to considering nuclear power plants in Turkey under present-day conditions.

What Is Relied Upon?

The fundamental principle of policies and programs developed to solve the energy problem must be reliance upon the nation's resources and its own strength. Dependency on outside powers in this field must be reduced to a minimum. This, in turn, means that making use of the nation's own resources is the basic condition for energy production. Turkey today obtains one-third of its electrical energy from petroleum products, and it purchases this petroleum from abroad. Water and lignite, its own natural resources, are used to a very limited degree. It has been determined that Turkey has the potential to produce 100 billion kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power per year and 60 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity from lignite coal each year, but is using only 8.5 percent of the former and 6 percent of the latter.

Currently, Turkey is dependent upon foreign sources for the electromechanical apparatus for its hydroelectric and coal power plants, but not for its fuel and operations. Power plants such as Anbarli, Hopa, and the Aliaga gas turbines, which use petroleum products (fuel oil and diesel fuel) as fuel, are dependent on the outside world for their mechanical equipment and fuel. Nuclear power plants would be dependent on foreign countries from the standpoint of fuel, electromechanical apparatus, the facility, and operations.

For this reason, a nuclear power plant is the type of electrical power plant that most runs counter to the energy policy and that is completely opposite the fundamental principle, which is acknowledged in 5-year plans and programs, of relying on the national strength.

A second objection to nuclear power plants is that now-planned investments for the nation's resources in the energy sector would be set aside, because they would be inappropriate alongside construction of the Akkuyu nuclear power plants. In 1986, when the Akkuyu Power Plant will begin production, about 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical energy will be able to be generated in Turkey. Of this, 45 billion kilowatt-hours will come from thermal sources and 25 billion kilowatt-hours, from water sources. These figures demonstrate that, in 1986, when the nuclear power plant begins producing, 25 percent of Turkey's water resources and 57 percent of its lignite resources will be utilized. While it is calculated that Turkey's unused capacity for hydroelectric power will be 75 billion kilowatt-hours and for lignite-coal power will be 30 billion kilowatt-hours in 1986, the insertion in plans and programs and the beginning of nuclear power plant construction will come to mean that making use of these natural resources will be postponed because of the nuclear power plants. This would be an action that violates national interests.

High Cost

The third drawback to nuclear power plants is their extremely high cost. Cost analyses carried out in a Turkish Union of Chambers of Architects and

Engineers study show that a 600-megawatt power plant, which is the capacity of the Akkuyu Power Plant, is 2.5 times as expensive as a thermal power plant and 4.7 times as expensive as a hydroelectric power plant with the same capacity. These figures do not take into account foreign and domestic installment payments and interest charges. In-depth cost analyses demonstrate that:

[1.] When comparing foreign expenditures for the construction of the facility, the 600-megawatt Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant costs as much as three thermal power plants or five hydroelectric power plants of the same capacity.

[2.] When comparing foreign expenditures for the operation of the facility, the 600-megawatt Akkuyu Power Plant costs as much as five thermal power plants or eight hydroelectric power plants of the same capacity.

[3.] While a kilowatt-hour of power at a hydroelectric power plant costs 96 kurush, the cost of 245 kurush per kilowatt-hour at a nuclear power plant makes this the most expensive form of production.

Nuclear Technology Must Not Be Forgotten

Adding up all the objections, it becomes clear that nuclear power plants would be an undertaking that would further cement dependency on other countries in the energy sector. The question is not one of opposition to nuclear technology. Of course, defending outmoded technologies over modern technology means not keeping up with contemporary civilization. Necessary studies on the development of nuclear technology must be conducted at related institutions such as universities and the AEM [Atomic Energy Commission].

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UNITED KINGDOM

ENERGY SECRETARY TO ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NUCLEAR EXPANSION

LD151147 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 15 Oct 79 p 15 LD

[Report by Roland Gribben: "Nuclear Expansion"]

[Text] Details of a nuclear power expansion costing around 10,000 million pounds are expected to be announced here next month by Mr Howell, energy secretary. The Cabinet will shortly give the go-ahead for a 10-year programme based on ordering a new station a year at about 1,000 million pounds each. Orders are likely to be split between the British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactor and the American pressurised water system.

The government will also confirm plans to hold a major public inquiry before deciding whether to order the controversial fast breeder nuclear reactor.

It is awaiting the full report of the United States Senate investigation into the Harrisburg nuclear power accident before making a commitment to the American system. The Harrisburg design is based on a pressurised water reactor provided by Babcock & Wilcox of the United States, which is no relations to the British company of the same name. The design for the British stations will be provided by Westinghouse, the most successful American nuclear power designer.

Mrs Thatcher has made it clear that she wants to see an expanded nuclear power programme to help cope with the energy crisis. The new programme will be accompanied by yet another restructuring of the industry. The government expects strong opposition to the expansion proposal from mineworkers, who want more coal-fired stations, and environmental groups.

The Energy Department has completed reviews of the fuel outlook this winter. It has concluded that there is unlikely to be any significant problem unless the weather is unduly severe and the miners strike in support of their 65 per cent pay claim.

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